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MONTANA LABOR MARKET

Monthly Review of
EMPLOYMENT OUTLOOK, LABOR SUPPLY, LABOR DEMAND, CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

MONTANA STATE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE Division of Unemployment Compensation Commission of Montana

Albert F. Root, Commissioner

Chadwick H. Smith, Chairman
Mitchell Building — P. O. Box 1728 — Helena, Montana

Paul R. McClure, Commissioner

FL 197.



JULY, 1959

Industrial Employment Climbs to 167,500

Accelerated hiring in fields of industry and commerce brought an increase of 4,900 in the number of wage earners on industrial payrolls June 15 as compared to a month earlier. June estimates compiled by the Commission in cooperation with the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics placed employment in non-farm industries at 167,500, or 3,000 above a year ago and 4,400 higher than the June average of 163,100 from 1950 through 1958.

1,800 More in Construction

Contract construction with a healthy seasonal hike of 1,800 workers over May totals paced all other major industrial groups in employment gains. Increased activity in lumber and wood products was solely responsible for an increase of 800 in the manufacturing group. Trade and service industries responded to markedly improved statewide labor market conditions with an added seasonal boost from tourism by increasing payrolls 700 and 500 respectively. Government added 800 to its payrolls during the month, transportation and utilities 300, and finance, insurance, and real estate, 100. Employment in metal mining was down 100 from the previous month.

Highway Jobs Keep 1,900 Busy

Highway contracts totaling over 44½ million dollars involving 119 projects in the shape of 844 miles of construction and 12,800 feet of bridges and overpasses occupied approximately 1,900 workers during the month. Last year at the same time 1,600 were employed. Fair to good progress was

Montana At Mid-Year Shows Economic Strength With Labor Force Growing Faster Than Jobs

The work applicant count at local employment offices continued to remain high during June in the face of continued hiring in every major industrial group. The month ended with 11,000 job applicants, down 500 from the previous month, but nearly 4,500 more than the June average for the past nine years. New job applicants during June totaled 6,034, an increase of 2,300 from May. The rise came chiefly from high school and college students who registered for summer employment and in-migration of transient farm and construction workers. With economic recovery advancing on a wide front, some of the non-farm employment lost during the recent downturn has been regained. The force has not been sufficient, however, to lift employment to pre-recession levels or to provide an expanded job base for employment of Montana's fast growing labor force. Much of the employment loss from two years ago can be laid directly to the change in metal mining methods and also to secondary unemployment which resulted therefrom.

reported on all jobs with some temporary work suspension in some areas because of heavy rains.

Lumbering Builds Toward Peak

In the timbered areas of the state, lumbering and logging were important factors in reducing the available labor supply during June and is now building toward peak employment. Highly vulnerable to seasonal forces, any large scale spring resumption of work in this industry is frequently deferred until June because of snow conditions at higher elevations and soft logging roads. Some mills were closed for short periods during the month for repairs and installations of new machinery and equipment.

Glasgow Has Housing Headaches

In its metamorphosis from a rural community to an important and expanding military center, Glasgow has inherited many of the problems which come with such transformation. With a population that has

nearly doubled since 1950 and expected to double again by 1962, the housing problem looms as the biggest immediate headache to plague civic officials and base personnel. Housing starts so far have been slow. The problem has been further compounded by lack of sewage and water facilities. Trailer court facilities are being enlarged to meet some demands in small measure. Workers, many of them inexperienced and with no special skills, continue to invade the area. The current base work force of approximately 1,250 nearly doubled last month. As activities increase and employment expands, more problems will come to test the imagination and initiative, and perhaps even try the patience of those on the Glasgow scene.

Mild Increase in Metal Mining

Preliminary work is underway for the projected re-opening of three zinc mines in Butte. Recovery of low grade ore will be through the block caving method. Potential employment expected to be 180.

LABOR TURNOVER RATES IN MANUFACTURING AND MINING INDUSTRIES (per 100 employees)

INDUSTRY	ACCESSION RATE						SEPARATION RATE								
	Total			New Hire			Total			Quit			Layoff		
	1) May 1959	2) Apr 1959	May 1958	May 1959	Apr. 1959	May 1958	May 1959	Apr. 1959	May 1958	May 1959	Apr. 1959	May 1958	May 1959	Apr. 1959	May 1958
3) All Manufacturing.....	6.9	5.8	3.7	4.9	3.6	2.2	4.8	3.2	2.7	2.4	1.8	1.3	1.6	0.7	1.0
Durable Goods.....	8.5	5.7	3.6	4.7	3.4	1.8	3.8	3.9	2.4	2.3	1.8	1.3	0.8	0.9	0.7
Primary Metal.....	3.1	3.7	0.7	1.3	2.6	0.1	2.4	3.7	2.3	1.3	1.4	1.2	0.6	0.3	0.8
3) Nondurable Goods.....	4.3	5.9	3.8	3.7	4.1	2.7	6.5	2.2	3.1	2.5	1.7	1.3	3.0	0.2	1.6
All Mining.....	6.7	4.8	3.1	2.7	1.7	1.3	6.6	4.8	4.7	4.1	2.7	2.6	1.6	0.4	1.1
Metal Mining.....	5.9	3.9	2.2	0.1	0.4	0.1	6.4	5.3	5.6	5.2	3.1	3.0	0.2	0.1	1.6

1) Preliminary rates based on all data available at publication time. 2) Figures previously revised on more complete returns.
3) Excludes sugar and canning industries. Total separations include discharges and miscellaneous separations.
1959 rates not strictly comparable with 1958 rates due to change in reporting form from which basic data are obtained.

Along the Hiring Line— Field Summary, July 1

ANACONDA, Deer Lodge, Phillipsburg—(251 jobseekers, 146 new; 143 men, 108 women). Smelter employment increasing with 2 idle furnaces refired. Hiring evident in every plant department, but slowed somewhat by compulsory physical examinations. Some road and bridge jobs near completion with idled workers transferred to other projects. Force reduction at Phillipsburg mine idled 25 men.

BILLINGS, Columbus, Hardin, Hysham, Laurel, Red Lodge, Roundup—(813 jobseekers, 854 new; 458 men, 355 women). Dollar volume of building construction in progress totals 13 million. New building permits during June amounted to 1½ million dollars. Largest single commercial project is multi-million dollar suburban shopping center. 110 workmen employed on road, bridge, and overpass construction totaling \$3,000,000. Employment and volume in trade and service industries above year ago. 2 new shopping centers opened during the month.

BOZEMAN, Ennis, Three Forks, Trident—(487 jobseekers, 383 new; 335 men, 152 women). Lumbering and logging operations in full force with shortages of timber cutters and trim saw operators. Building construction at state college and city projects making good progress. Heavy equipment employed on 14 miles of highway construction with no labor shortages. Thirty-five new homes under construction. Projected projects include new bank, men's dormitory, and a farm credit administration building. Carpenter shortage likely to develop when projects begin.

BUTTE, Virginia City, Whitehall—(1,524 jobseekers, 490 new; 947 men, 597 women). Contract negotiations between Butte Miner's Union and Anaconda Company tend to cloud labor market picture. Metal mining employment totals static with no change seen in the immediate future. Major construction projects include \$200,000 college student hall, bowling alley, and highway overpass. 25 business buildings being remodeled. Most unemployed in unskilled and marginal worker classifications.

CUT BANK—(126 jobseekers, 103 new; 72 men, 54 women). Job seeker file increased by registration of high school and college students for summer work. 2 highway projects currently active in the area. Construction started on hospital addition at Browning. Future projects include radar base installation, 2 grain elevators, and power transmission line. Skilled workers in short supply.

DILLON—(112 jobseekers, 122 new; 72 men, 40 women). Influx of transient workers expected to meet demand for hay hands and general farm workers. Reopening of Virginia City resort area for summer season

LABOR MARKET INDICATORS

Employment—	June 1959	May 1959	June 1958	June Avg. 1950-58
Industrial Employment	167,500	162,600	164,500	163,100
New Job Applicants	6,034	3,734	6,501	4,004
Job Applicants, End of Month	11,049	11,541	16,832	6,577
				Avg. 1st
Insured Unemployment, Week of	July 3 1959	June 5 1959	July 4 1958	July Wk. 1955-59
New and Renewal Claims	418	553	802	440
Unemployed Weeks Filed	2,910	4,534	5,661	2,752
Total Unemployment Claims	3,328	5,087	6,463	3,192

helped reduce job seekers files. Some building projects completed and others near end. Six units being added to local motel. Reopening of local cafe employed 8 workers.

GLASGOW, Fort Peck, Malta, Opheim—(520 jobseekers, 290 new; 421 men, 99 women). Employment at air base reached 1,280 workers 600 more than previous month. Heavy in-migration of unskilled workers into area. Housing still critical with trailer court facilities being enlarged. Peak employment reached on runway construction at air base; additional hires will be for turnover replacement only. Lack of water supply holding up development of state land recently sold for commercial development. Other housing starts slow pending city sewer and water commitments.

GLENDIVE, Circle, Wibaux—(131 jobseekers, 202 new; 85 men, 46 women). Local labor force increased by registration of transient job seekers and high school graduates. Four road projects making satisfactory progress, including 4 miles of federal interstate highway. Work began on new city water plant. Only limited activity in commercial and home building, but 4 commercial buildings scheduled for construction later this summer.

GREAT FALLS, Choteau, Fort Benton, Stanford—(1,798 jobseekers, 880 new; 928 men, 870 women). Spirited gains in all major industrial groups led by contract construction and the trade industry. Service industries fairly active despite current wage disagreement in laundry and dry cleaning establishments. Some idled workers have shifted to other jobs. Heavy demand foreseen for skilled workmen as construction season advances. New 3½ million dollar shopping center slated for July construction.

HAMILTON, Stevensville—(233 jobseekers, 88 new; 137 men, 96 women). Area job applicants mostly women and high school students for summer employment. Sawmill operations near capacity with good demand for woods workers. Mining activities curtailed due to uncertain situation in steel. Construction not on par with last year, workers employed in other areas. Haying began at end of month with full demand for hay hands expected next few weeks.

HAVRE, Chinook, Harlem—(174 jobseekers, 136 new; 86 men, 88 women). A new telephone building, church, and hospital addition projects totaling ½ million dollars nearing completion. Idled workmen will be absorbed in other projects. Work on new school building at Rocky Boy Indian reservation and new 200,000 bushel elevator in Havre started. Contract awarded for construction of new Super Save Market. Additional power transmission line construction scheduled for Hill, Blaine and Chouteau counties. Industrial employment outlook in area bright.

HELENA, Boulder, Garrison, Townsend, White Sulphur Springs—(848 jobseekers, 318 new; 554 men, 294 women). Wet cool weather during the month temporarily suspended some outside activities in construction and agriculture. Helena Valley road project completed. Three road improvement projects started at Avon, Lincoln, and Augusta. Area lumber activity stepped up during the month with recall of idled workers. Labor sufficient to meet current demands with exception of professional, clerical and some skilled occupations.

KALISPELL, Columbia Falls, Eureka, Libby, Whitefish—(1,853 jobseekers, 566 new; 1,066 men, 787 women). Large increase in worker application files as college students and housewives register for summer work. Five hundred seeking employment at cherry warehouses. Local economy bright with sharp rise in lumber manufacturing, contract construction, and trade and service industries. Two highway projects and expanded construction activity at radar station employed carpenters and heavy equipment operators.

LEWISTOWN, Harlowton, Ryegate, Winnett—(112 jobseekers, 111 new; 53 men, 59 women). Improved labor market conditions reflected by new hires in construction, trade, service, manufacturing, and forestry and fishing. Labor demand and supply expected to be in balance next 30 days. Rains delayed some agricultural activities with start of haying expected to utilize all idle labor.

LIVINGSTON, Big Timber—(176 jobseekers, 111 new; 108 men, 78 women). All area sawmills in production with most

NINE YEARS OF MONTANA INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT TOTALS, BY MONTHS (in Thousands)

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Aver.
1951	141.9	139.4	140.3	145.9	149.4	154.1	153.5	154.6	154.3	152.4	151.7	150.6	149.0
1952	140.5	140.7	143.0	149.7	154.8	159.9	159.5	161.2	160.4	157.9	156.0	154.9	153.2
1953	145.8	144.5	146.3	149.7	153.1	158.0	158.5	160.6	160.3	159.6	157.6	156.4	154.2
1954	146.7	145.5	147.2	151.1	155.7	161.6	164.1	165.4	154.8	153.9	158.2	155.7	155.0
1955	148.4	146.8	147.4	153.4	158.4	166.8	168.2	170.4	169.8	165.9	162.4	160.3	159.8
1956	154.3	152.1	154.2	160.7	167.0	175.0	175.7	177.5	176.9	173.6	167.9	165.2	166.7
1957	159.0	157.8	158.6	163.0	168.6	174.8	176.9	176.8	175.2	170.0	165.4	161.1	167.3
1958	151.9	149.0	149.2	153.6	159.0	164.5	165.0	167.0	165.0	162.0	160.0	157.8	158.7
1959	152.2	150.9	152.3	158.2	162.6	167.5*							

*Preliminary estimate.

Along the Hiring Line— Field Summary, July 1

(Continued from page Two)

operating with full crews. Shortage of experienced sawmill workers forseen the next few weeks. Good weather has allowed logging crews to continue woods work. Two highway projects active with 100 men employed. Work progressing on several new homes and service stations.

MILES CITY, Baker, Ekalaka, Broadus, Jordan, Terry—(79 jobseekers, 153 new; 50 men, 29 women). No major projects under construction in the immediate area. Radar base project expected to begin about July 15. Sufficient labor in area to meet demands. Some workers recalled to railroad employment with future openings also anticipated.

MISSOULA, Drummond, Arlee, Superior—(901 jobseekers, 507 new; 530 men, 371 women). Construction not in active force of previous years. Increase in demand and price of lumber and wood products kept woods and mill workers busy. Tourist traffic heavy, bringing increased volume to trade and service industries.

POLSON—(251 jobseekers, 122 new; 185 men, 66 women). Prospects in lumber industry bright with one new mill in operation; another being constructed will add approximately 40 men to steady employment. Labor market picture considerably brighter than last year. Recruitment of workers for cherry harvest under way. Prospects for sweet cherry crop not as favorable as last year due to wet weather during the pollination period and some frost damage.

SHELBY—(262 jobseekers, 217 new; 195 men, 67 women). Construction activity highlighted the June labor market picture in the area. Road projects making good progress, but overpass activity restricted due to steel shortage. Building construction limited to new housing and grain elevator at Galata. Tourist traffic heavy during month with a resultant increase in trade and service employment. Three railroad extra gangs in area with June hiring for replacements only.

SIDNEY—(94 jobseekers, 83 new; 65 men, 29 women). Building permits for the first 6 months of the year total \$486,000. Trade and service industries report good volume despite some drought conditions in rural areas which slowed consumer buying. Oil field exploration and drilling slow with idled workers employed in North Dakota. Livestock production excellent with large lamb and calf yields reported from all areas.

THOMPSON FALLS, Hot Springs—(153 jobseekers, 60 new; 116 men, 37 women). Noxon rapids Dam employment remains steady at 250 with no major layoffs anticipated until late September. Twelve housing units under construction or remodeling, and work began on new ranger station. Logging operations in full swing after opening of access roads. Sawmill steady after remodeling and installation of automatic equipment at some mills. Hiring of railroad workers expanded during month.

WOLF POINT, Plentywood, Scobey—(151 jobseekers, 92 new; 102 men, 49 women). No new construction projects other than dwellings started during the month. Projected projects bid during June were highway bridge, 40-bed hospital, and addition to dry goods store. Grain crop prospects look considerably brighter than last year with anticipated upswing in demand for farm workers next 30 days.

ESTIMATED EMPLOYMENT IN NON-AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES IN MONTANA (1)

(Compiled in co-operation with United States Bureau of Labor Statistics)

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT			Net Change	
	June 1959 (2)	May 1959 (3)	June 1958	May '59 to June '59	June '58 to June '59
NON-AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES	167,500	162,600	164,500	4,900	3,000
Manufacturing	20,400	19,600	20,600	800	— 200
Durable goods	12,800	12,000	12,900	800	— 100
Lumber and timber products	7,400	6,600	7,200	800	200
Primary metals	4,100	4,100	4,300	00	— 200
Other (4)	1,300	1,300	1,400	00	— 100
Nondurable goods	7,600	7,600	7,700	00	— 100
Food and kindred products	3,800	3,800	4,100	00	— 300
Printing and publishing	1,800	1,800	1,600	00	200
Petroleum refining	1,000	1,000	900	00	100
Other (5)	1,000	1,000	1,100	00	— 100
Mining	9,200	9,300	8,900	— 100	300
Metal mining	5,700	5,800	5,600	— 100	100
Coal, quarrying and nonmetallic	700	700	700	00	00
Petroleum-natural gas production	2,800	2,800	2,600	00	200
Contract Construction	14,800	13,000	11,600	1,800	3,200
Contractors, building construction	5,000	3,800	3,400	1,200	1,600
Contractors, other than building	5,800	5,300	4,500	500	1,300
Contractors, special trade	4,000	3,900	3,700	100	300
Transportation and utilities	19,900	19,600	19,600	300	300
Interstate railroads	9,900	9,700	9,700	200	200
Transportation except railroads	4,000	4,000	3,800	00	200
Utilities including communication	6,000	5,900	6,100	100	— 100
Trade	38,700	38,000	39,200	700	— 500
Wholesale trade	7,800	7,700	7,800	100	00
Retail trade	30,900	30,300	31,400	600	— 500
General merchandise and apparel	6,000	6,000	6,100	00	— 100
Food stores	4,400	4,400	4,500	00	— 100
Eating and drinking establishments	8,200	7,700	8,300	500	— 100
Automotive and filling stations	6,200	6,000	6,300	200	— 100
Retail trade not elsewhere classified	6,100	6,200	6,200	— 100	— 100
Finance, insurance and real estate	5,900	5,800	5,800	100	100
Services and miscellaneous	20,900	20,400	22,300	500	—1,400
Hotels, rooming houses, camps, etc.	3,100	2,500	3,800	600	— 700
Personal services	2,100	2,200	2,200	— 100	— 100
Other (6)	15,700	15,700	16,300	00	— 600
Government	37,700	36,900	36,500	800	1,200
Federal	9,900	8,900	9,800	1,000	100
State and local	27,800	28,000	26,700	— 200	1,100
Great Falls Area (Cascade County)	19,800	19,600	18,900	200	900
Manufacturing	3,200	3,200	2,900	00	300
Contract construction	2,100	1,900	1,800	200	300
Transportation and utilities	2,200	2,200	2,300	00	— 100
Trade, wholesale and retail	5,400	5,400	5,300	00	100
Services and miscellaneous (7)	4,000	4,000	3,900	00	100
Government	2,900	2,900	2,700	00	200

(1) Estimates include all full and part-time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay during the pay period ending nearest the 15th of the month. Proprietors, firm members, personnel of the armed forces, domestic servants, and self-employed persons are excluded.

(2) Preliminary estimates based on return from samples of 700 selected Montana establishments.

(3) Figures previously released have been received on return from 1,106 such establishments.

(4) Includes fabricated metal products, machinery except electrical, furniture, stone and clay products.

(5) Includes apparel, chemicals, and miscellaneous manufacturing products.

(6) Includes commercial trade schools, auto repair services and garages, miscellaneous repair services and hand trades, motion pictures, amusements and recreation, medical and health, law offices and professional services, non-profit membership organizations and businesses not otherwise classified.

(7) Same as (6) above, also includes finance, real estate and mining.

COMPARISON OF BASIC LABOR MARKET ACTIVITIES IN JUNE, 1959 AND JUNE, 1958

Employment Service Office	New Job Applicants				Jobseekers in File				Job Placement								U.I. Claims Wk. 7-3	
	June 1959		June 1958		June 1959		June 1958		June 1959				June 1958				1959	1958
	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Ind.	Ag.	Tot.	Vet.	Ind.	Ag.	Tot.	Vet.		
Anaconda.....	146	21	137	30	251	43	302	66	84	13	97	32	27	9	36	10	124	271
Billings.....	854	144	937	251	813	129	1,945	519	564	1,297	1,861	288	371	1,118	1,489	247	392	773
Bozeman.....	383	104	385	117	487	163	710	213	233	126	359	127	171	109	280	83	45	101
Butte.....	490	88	821	218	1,524	276	2,155	695	171	29	200	53	39	3	42	19	563	1,414
Cut Bank.....	103	27	64	20	126	33	249	98	67	136	203	43	23	110	133	29	58	118
Dillon.....	122	65	128	52	112	31	103	42	48	96	144	65	45	102	147	77	35	50
Glasgow.....	290	72	333	104	520	132	667	205	189	198	387	159	71	149	220	104	76	127
Glendive.....	202	47	132	28	131	14	221	45	136	1,003	1,139	55	68	1,061	1,129	48	11	77
Great Falls.....	880	180	585	137	1,798	282	1,910	608	453	274	727	222	263	107	370	134	497	787
Hamilton.....	88	14	97	15	233	43	413	90	35	194	229	36	32	172	204	34	88	134
Havre.....	136	18	216	31	174	20	378	81	134	109	243	89	110	107	217	95	99	162
Helena.....	318	53	290	84	848	238	569	201	219	54	273	86	147	39	186	82	168	220
Kalispell.....	566	63	789	71	1,853	384	3,674	672	311	12	323	97	215	21	236	90	368	781
Lewistown.....	111	21	108	32	112	12	195	40	87	97	184	85	47	83	130	69	33	81
Livingston.....	111	9	114	19	176	23	193	48	67	27	94	29	57	28	85	36	119	107
Miles City.....	153	29	184	33	79	13	228	66	116	760	876	67	85	683	768	34	29	107
Missoula.....	507	118	541	149	901	192	1,499	436	234	64	298	97	152	64	216	94	309	589
Polson.....	122	18	289	34	251	61	502	104	61	31	92	36	52	62	114	51	135	178
Shelby.....	217	70	104	40	262	79	253	80	92	226	318	51	57	83	140	52	30	111
Sidney.....	83	44	61	27	94	13	147	30	67	2,234	2,301	48	33	1,394	1,427	26	19	60
Thomp. Falls.....	60	23	77	14	153	35	257	84	61	3	64	23	77	7	84	36	88	128
Wolf Point.....	92	11	109	21	151	29	262	63	43	30	73	22	27	47	74	20	42	87
TOTALS.....	6,034	1,239	6,501	1,527	11,049	2,245	16,832	4,486	3,472	7,013	10,485	1,810	2,169	5,558	7,727	1,470	3,328	6,463

*Include 66 claims of the Federal Employees UC Program, 142 same a year ago.

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN SELECTED MONTANA INDUSTRIES

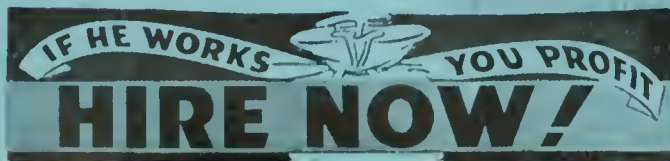
(Produced in co-operation with United States Bureau of Labor Statistics)
(Hours and earnings data exclude administrative and salaried personnel)

INDUSTRY	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	June (1) 1959	May (2) 1959	June 1958	June (1) 1959	May (2) 1959	June 1958	June (1) 1959	May (2) 1959	June 1958
All Manufacturing.....	\$97.69	\$95.99	\$90.85	40.2	39.5	39.5	2.43	2.43	2.30
Durable goods.....	92.10	90.87	89.50	39.7	39.0	39.6	2.32	2.33	2.26
Primary metals.....	93.69	93.69	91.31	39.2	39.2	39.7	2.39	2.39	2.30
Nondurable goods.....	109.45	106.37	92.75	41.3	40.6	39.3	2.65	2.62	2.36
Food and kindred products.....	93.66	88.29	81.99	42.0	40.5	41.2	2.23	2.18	1.99
All Mining.....	99.88	103.25	97.69	40.6	41.3	40.2	2.46	2.50	2.43
Metal mining.....	96.50	98.04	91.10	38.6	38.6	37.8	2.50	2.54	2.41
Transportation and Utilities (except railrds.)	95.34	96.61	98.66						
Transportation (except railroads).....	109.43	113.69	121.28						
Utilities and communication.....	84.85	84.02	82.97	39.1	38.9	39.7	2.17	2.16	2.09

(1) Preliminary estimates. (2) Figures previously released have been revised on more complete returns.

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION
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